

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 ERDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 IO-10

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SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 BIB-01 /083 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0869

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN PRIORITY

S E C R E T BONN 09941

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, MBFR, NATO, GW

SUBJECT: MBFR: FRG VIEWS ON OPTION III

REF: STATE 132089

1. EMBOFF SAW FONOFF MBFR DEPARTMENT HEAD RUTH TO SEE
IF FRG WISHED TO SIGNAL ANY SPECIAL PROBLEMS CONCERNING

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OPTION III TO U.S. BEFORE THE SPC DISCUSSIONS BEGIN.

NOTING THAT THE GERMAN POSITION HAD BEEN EXPRESSED IN DETAIL DURING THE TRILATERALS, RUTH SAID THAT THE FRG HAD NOTHING TO ADD TO THEM AT THIS TIME. RUTH DID EXPRESS FRG GRATIFICATION THAT PARA 44 OF REFTEL EVIDENCED U.S. WILLINGNESS TO TAKE GERMAN VIEWS ON THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE INTO CONSIDERATION; OTHERWISE, HE SAID, THIS PAPER WAS SIMILAR TO THE ONE DISCUSSED DURING THE TRILATERALS.

2. RUTH TOOK THE OCCASION TO RESTATE THE FRG POSITION ON OPTION III AT SOME LENGTH. IN HIS PRESENTATION HE EMPHASIZED GERMAN INSISTENCE THAT ALL ASPECTS OF OPTION III SHOULD BE THOROUGHLY DISCUSSED IN NATO BEFORE THE SUBJECT WAS TABLED IN VIENNA. THE FRG CONSIDERS OPTION III TO BE A VERY IMPORTANT CARD WHICH MUST BE PLAYED AT THE RIGHT MOMENT AND IN THE RIGHT WAY. RUTH ARGUED, HOWEVER, THAT THE FRG DOES NOT OPPOSE THE INTRODUCTION OF OPTION III PROVIDED IT DOES NOT AFFECT SOME OF ITS BASIC MBFR BELIEFS: E.G., DEEP-SEATED OPPOSITION TO NATIONAL SUBCEILINGS. FINALLY, THE FRG REMAINS CONVINCED THAT OPTION III IS IMPORTANT ENOUGH SO THAT THE WEST SHOULD DEMAND NOT ONLY THE REMOVAL OF A SOVIET TANK ARMY BUT ALSO SOVIET AGREEMENT TO THE COMMON CEILING.

3. RUTH CONFIRMED THAT BONN PARTICIPANTS IN THE SPC MEETING WOULD CONSIST OF HIMSELF AND COLONEL TANDECKI ALONG WITH COLONEL NEBE AND LT. COLONEL WIESMANN.

4. COMMENT: WHILE EMBOFF DID NOT REPEAT NOT DISCUSS THE TIMETABLE FOR NATO OPTION III CONSULTATIONS WHICH THE U.S. PROPOSES, HE DID REITERATE THE U.S. DESIRE FOR EXPEDITIOUS CONSIDERATION. RUTH LEFT NO DOUBT THAT THE FRG WOULD INSIST ON A FULL AIRING OF THE COMPLEX ISSUES INVOLVED IN INTRODUCING OPTION III INTO THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS EVEN IF SUCH AN AIRING MIGHT IMPAIR THE WEST'S ABILITY TO BEGIN DISCUSSING THE MATTER WITH THE SOVIETS AT THE MOST PROPITIOUS MOMENT.
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